

U.S. Department of Justice U.S. Attorney's Office Western District of Texas

Johnny Sutton, U.S. Attorney

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Shana Jones, Special Assistant Daryl Fields, Public Information Officer (210) 384-7440

SAN ANTONIO MAN SENTENCED TO FIFTY YEARS IN FEDERAL PRISON AS A RESULT OF VIEWING CHILD PORNOGRAPHY ON ST. MARY'S UNIVERSITY LIBRARY COMPUTER

United States Attorney Johnny Sutton announced that Garry Gallardo, 56, of San Antonio, was sentenced to 40 years in federal prison this morning for possession and receipt of child pornography.

In addition to the statutory maximum prison term for the child pornography offenses, United States District Judge Orlando Garcia sentenced Gallardo to ten years consecutive imprisonment for violating his probation stemming from a prior child pornography possession conviction.

"The act of looking at pictures and video of children being raped is evil - pure and simple. Those who do it should expect a severe punishment," stated United States Attorney Johnny Sutton.

On June 22, 2006, Gallardo pleaded guilty to possession and receipt of child pornography. By pleading guilty, Gallardo admitted that on June 29, 2005, while using a computer at the St. Mary's University library in San Antonio, he viewed and downloaded images of child pornography from an Internet web page. Gallardo's actions were witnessed by two minor females, as well as the University's librarian and Campus police. Authorities arrested Gallardo and seized the University's computer and a diskette labeled "Vol 45" belonging to the defendant. An examination revealed approximately 22 child pornography images located on the diskette that had been downloaded from the Internet. Authorities subsequently executed a search warrant at the defendant's residence where they located over thirty diskettes containing images of child pornography.

Gallardo's probation which was revoked was based upon a 1987 conviction for mailing child pornography. In that case Gallardo had received an eighteen-year term of imprisonment to be followed by a probated ten years.

This case was investigated by the San Antonio Police Department together with the St. Mary's University Police Department and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Assistant United States Attorney Larry Mathews prosecuted this case on behalf of the government.

This case is being brought as part of Project Safe Childhood. In February 2006, Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales created Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative designed to protect children from online exploitation and abuse. Led by the United States Attorneys Offices, Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend, and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.projectsafechildhood.gov/."